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EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY Air Force Master Sgt. Adam Macowicz comforts Rita, a military working dog, during her retirement ceremony hosted by the 412th Security Forces Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 25, 2026. Rita and another military working dog officially retired after years of service protecting base personnel, visiting dignitaries and critical defense assets. U.S. Air Force photo by Blaine Torres

BOBCAT BURNED IN CAMP PENDLETON FIRE RETURNS TO WILD

by Nina Thompson
San Diego Humane Society
RAMONA - A resilient bobcat rescued with severe burns and life-threatening injuries has returned to the wild following more than two months of veterinary care through San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife program at the Ramona Wildlife Center.



Patient successfully treated for severe paw pad burns, trauma and emaciation. Photo courtesy of San Diego Humane Society

Camp Pendleton on July 6.

Upon intake, Project Wildlife's veterinary team diagnosed the feline with first- to third-degree burn wounds across all four paw pads, acute kidney injury, severe emaciation and heavy tick infestation. Weighing just 7.5 lbs. shortly after arrival, the bobcat faced a guarded prognosis.

To aid his recovery, the wildlife veterinary team administered an intensive treatment protocol that combined fluid therapy, nutrition, pain management, wound debridement and topical burn care. His paw pads were treated with repeated rounds of Phobia light therapy to stimulate cellular regeneration and healthy granulation tissue. As his wounds began to close and his lab work normalized, staff transitioned him into a special-

ized indoor-outdoor enclosure, closely monitoring his mobility, gait and weight gain on remote cameras while keeping human presence to a minimum to preserve his wild instincts.

"Our team was committed to ensuring this bobcat could heal and return home to the wild," said Autumn Welch, wildlife operations manager at San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center. "Bobcats play a vital role in our local ecosystems by helping maintain balance and keeping rodent and small mammal populations in check. Watching a predator with injuries this severe fight his way back, regain his strength and run back into his native habitat makes every single hour of care worthwhile."

During his 65 days at the Ra-

see **Bobcat**, page 5

USS Robert Smalls departs Japan for homeport change to San Diego

by Lt.Cmdr. Spencer Marion
Commander, Task Force 70 / Carrier Strike Group 5

YOKOSUKA, Japan — Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser USS *Robert Smalls* (CG 62) departed Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka earlier this month for a permanent homeport change to San Diego.

The departure ends the ship's forward-deployed tour to U.S. 7th Fleet and Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 5 and also marks the last Navy cruiser to leave Japan. *Robert Smalls* was replaced by Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89).

"USS *Robert Smalls* has been a vital part of our forward deployed force," said Rear Adm. Jeffrey L. Heames, commander of CSG 5 and Commander, Task Force (CTF) 70. "She is the last cruiser to leave Japan. Her Sailors stood the watch here for more than a decade and strengthened our alliance every day they were on station. We thank them for their service and thank Japan for its partnership and hospitality."

Robert Smalls arrived in Yokosuka in 2015 as USS *Chancellorsville* and was renamed to USS *Robert Smalls* in 2023. During this tour the ship served as the strike group's cruiser escort and operated continuously with Japan Maritime Self Defense Force units throughout the Pacific and alongside U.S. allies and partners during regional exercises.

Capt. Francisco X. Garza, commanding officer of USS *Robert Smalls*, said the underway is the ship's final departure from Japan. "This is our sayonara, leaving Japan for the last time," Garza said. "This crew, and the crews that came before us on this hull, earned the trust of our Japanese partners and of the strike group. We leave proud of that record and grateful for the time we had in Yokosuka. Freedom through Courage."

This homeport change is a permanent change of station for the crew and their families.



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2026 Schedule of Events

Navy Band Concert in Chula Vista	Nov 1
STEM Day at Meet the Fleet at 32nd Street	Nov 6
Enlisted Recognition Luncheon at the San Diego Zoo	Nov 6
Navy and Marine Band Concert at Symphony Hall	Nov 6
Meet the Fleet at 32nd Street	Nov 7
Military & Veterans Concert at Balboa Park	Nov 8
Fleet Week Community Breakfast onboard the USS Midway	Nov 10
Student STEM Days at Broadway Pier	Nov 10,12,13
Fleet Week Innovation Zone at Broadway Pier	Nov 10-15
Fleet Week Family Fun Run and 5K	Nov 11
Veterans & Military Boat Parade	Nov 11
Veterans Day Concert on Broadway Pier	Nov 11
Broadway Pier Open to the Public w/ Military Displays	Nov 11,13-15
SDSU Fleet Week Football Classic	Nov 14
Military Family Day at Broadway Pier	Nov 15
MRE Cooking Contest	Nov 15

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Top 5

- Troops get first increase in 24 years for hostile fire, danger pays
- Third aircraft carrier and thousands of troops head to Mideast as Trump weighs new Iran strikes
- Pentagon launches Office of Religious Affairs, will report directly to Hegseth
- Pentagon spent millions on migrant detention supplies that were never used, watchdog says
- Trump says Iran will be hit 'very hard' if it is behind copilot who tried to crash flight to Israel

Your Military

- Refrigeration failures affect four military commissaries in Europe

Army

- Citing knowledge gaps, Army rolls out barracks guidebook for NCOs
- Army meets Reserve, Special Forces recruiting goals for first time in a decade, general confirms

Navy

- Navy exceeds recruiting goal with over 45,000 new Sailors
- Navy Expeditionary Combat Command rebranded to reflect warfare evolution

Marine Corps

- Marines head to the Baltic to safeguard undersea infrastructure

Air Force

- Air Force identifies airman found dead at off-base housing in Italy

Defense Industry

- Navy awards RTX's Raytheon \$24.4B for SM-6 missiles amid stockpile concerns
- Boeing adds to big week with first full-rate Grey Wolf helicopter order
- Neros, Perennial Autonomy lead in Pentagon's drone competition
- Space Force picks two companies to build new 'space-to-space' satellites by 2028

Navy high-speed Wi-Fi reaches milestone for global unaccompanied housing

by Navy Installations Command Headquarters Public Affairs

The Navy's initiative to provide free, high-speed Wi-Fi to all Navy-owned and -operated unaccompanied housing is 90 percent complete, with the service now available in 865 of 962 buildings since the rollout began in November 2025.

The program, a partnership between Commander, Navy Installations Command and the Navy Exchange Service Command, continued its worldwide expansion with service going live across bases throughout the continental United States, Europe, Asia and the Pacific region.

Driven by a dedicated focus on improving the quality of service, well-being and operational readiness of sailors, the effort ensures warfighters remain connected to family, support networks and educational resources while stationed abroad and in the United States.

"Reliable connectivity is an important part of sustaining the force and ensuring sailors have the support they need to remain ready and resilient," said Navy Vice Adm. Scott Gray, deputy

chief of naval operations for sustainment. "This milestone demonstrates the Navy's continued investment in the infrastructure and services that enable our people to focus on the mission, wherever they serve."

Vice Adm. Brad Collins, Navy Installations Command commander, said the command will sustain the initiative's momentum through completion and continue pursuing improvements across the shore enterprise.

"Across 71 installations, our responsibility is clear: deliver the safe, resilient and reliable shore infrastructure and services sailors need to succeed," he said. "Completing this Wi-Fi initiative remains a priority, and we will build on this progress to raise the standard of service, strengthen quality of life, and ensure our shore enterprise keeps pace with the needs of a ready naval force."

The remaining 10 percent of unaccompanied housing facilities located in isolated regions, such as Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti and the Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia in the central Indian Ocean, are scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2027.



Sailors test out the newly installed Wi-Fi service. The free, high-speed internet program is a Navy Installations Command and NEX command initiative to increase quality of life for Sailors living in unaccompanied housing. U.S. Navy courtesy photo

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(top, left) A Marine fires an M27 rifle during a live-fire exercise aboard amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island, Oct. 3, 2026. U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Tristan Farnam. (top, right) Navy Chief Warrant Officer Two Kenesha Bryan, assigned to USS Theodore Roosevelt, trains Sailors on aircraft firefighting Oct. 2, 2026. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Aaron Haro Gonzalez



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See the Man On The Street column in our online edition.
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Naval Research Lab welcomes MC-12S Super King Air to east coast

by Emily Winget

The Naval Research Laboratory's Scientific Development Squadron ONE (VXS-1), commemorated the 63-year history of the P-3 Orion research aircraft and introduced its successor, the MC-12S Super King Air, during a recent ceremony at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

The squadron, also known as the Warlocks, serves as NRL's airborne research arm.

Bobcat

continued from page 1

mona Wildlife Center, the bobcat more than doubled his intake weight to over 15 lbs., successfully resolved his anemia and organ values, and achieved full healing of his paw pads. On Sept. 30, the Project Wildlife team was accompanied by a team from Camp Pendleton to return the bobcat not far from where he was found.

"Camp Pendleton's environmental stewardship relies on strong collaboration, and this successful release highlights our enduring partnership with San Diego Humane Society," said Alisa Zych, Resource Management Branch Head for Camp Pendleton's Environmental Security Department. "From our Conservation Law Enforcement Officers rescuing this injured bobcat to our environmental team helping release him back onto the base, we are proud to work alongside their dedicated experts to protect and preserve the native wildlife entrusted to our care."

For more than three decades VXS-1 has operated the NP-3C Orion. On Sept. 22 the Warlocks bid farewell to the Navy's last active-duty P-3 on the East Coast departed for long-term preservation at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona.

"The P-3 Orion has served as the cornerstone of our heavy-lift, long endurance airborne

naval science, bridging the gap between laboratory concepts and frontline Fleet capabilities," said NRL Commanding Officer, Capt. Randy Cruz. "While we celebrate the aircraft's extraordinary service from combat route clearance to hurricane reconnaissance, the arrival of the MC-12S Super King Air ensures our team continues to deliver agile, high-altitude test capabilities to the warfighter."

Capt. Mark Zematis, commanding officer of NAS Pax River, reflected on the history of the P-3 Orion. "When you think about American sea power, minds often race toward carrier decks — to strike fighters and bombers. But over six decades,

the true sentinels of the global commons weren't catapulted from flight decks. It was that aircraft [NP-3C Orion], launched from coastal runways, climbing into fog and squall on the muscle of four Allison T56 turboprops, carrying 11 crew members into the vast expanse of ocean."

The Navy doesn't permanently station a designated MC-12S Super King Air intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance squadron in San Diego. Instead, the presence of MC-12S aircraft in the San Diego region is typically tied to temporary operational training, joint military exercises, or technical modifications rather than a locally based squadron

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

My friend is 65; shouldn't she be exempt from Medicare payroll taxes?

Dear Rusty: My girlfriend is 65 and she just enrolled in Medicare. She is still working full time as a nurse, but they are still deducting Medicare taxes from her paycheck. I thought as soon as you started Medicare, that they would no longer take any Medicare taxes from her paychecks. Is that not correct?
Signed: Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend: Your understanding about Medicare payroll tax is, indeed, not correct. Medicare taxes are levied on everyone who works and earns, regardless of whether or not they are currently enrolled in the Medicare program. That is how Medicare has worked since it was first enacted in the mid-1960s and how it still works today.

FYI, everyone who works for an employer must pay "FICA" (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) payroll tax of 7.65%. Most (6.2%) of that payroll tax goes to support Social Security, but 1.45% goes to support Medicare Part A. Self-employed individuals must also pay this tax under the Self-Employed Contributions Act (SECA) which is equivalent to FICA, except the self-employed individual must also pay the employer portion of the payroll tax. The Social Security portion of the FICA/SECA tax has an earnings cap (\$184,500 in 2026), but there is no cap on earnings for the Medicare portion of the FICA/SECA payroll tax. FYI, employers pay an equivalent amount of Social Security and Medicare taxes, and the Medicare portion of the payroll tax is paid on all earnings (there is no cap on earnings from which the Medicare payroll tax is withheld).

To ensure understanding, Medicare Part A provides healthcare coverage for inpatient hospitalization services, and Medicare Part B provides coverage for outpatient medical services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). That 1.45% of the FICA (and SECA tax for the self-employed) is paid by those who work to help fund the Medicare Part A program, which is premium-free for most Americans after age 65. For Medicare Part B, there is a separate premium which helps pay for Medicare outpatient healthcare services. The standard Medicare Part B premium for 2026 is \$202.90 per month, compared to Medicare Part A which is free to all who are eligible for Social Security benefits. But the 1.45% payroll tax which is being withheld from your girlfriend's paycheck is paid by everyone who has work earnings, even if they are enrolled in Medicare.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-dvisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month: Give a dog a 2nd chance

Shelter sets 13th consecutive record month for adult dogs in care, offering special collar and tag perks through Kearny Mesa Subaru partnership

SAN DIEGO — October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, and San Diego Humane Society is encouraging community members to open their homes to a dog in need.

Right now, San Diego Humane Society is caring for 682 dogs, and is on track to set a 13th straight record in September for the number of adult dogs in its care. This year, the organization is averaging 23 more adult dogs in-care per day compared to September 2025. The milestone highlights the continued need for adopters, foster families and community support.

Adopting a dog changes two lives. It gives an animal the comfort and stability of a home. It also brings meaningful benefits to the adopter.

Benefits of Owning a Dog:

- Dogs provide unconditional companionship. Their loyal, comforting affection can help ward off loneliness and make every day brighter.
- Daily walks and outdoor play also encourage regular exercise, supporting cardiovascular fitness and mobility. Time spent with a dog can reduce stress and support mental well-being.
- Dogs can also create social connection. They are natural conversation starters with neighbors and fellow pet lovers.
- Caring for a dog brings routine, purpose and mindfulness to daily life. For many people, that responsibility offers a deep sense of fulfillment.

All dogs adopted from San Diego Humane Society go home spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

This October, Kearny Mesa Subaru is helping dogs begin their second chance with new families. Through Subaru Loves Pets®, Subaru and the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) have donated funds so every adopted dog and puppy can go home with a new collar and engraved ID tag, while supplies last. The promotion is available to canine adopters at San Diego Humane Society locations in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego.

To view dogs available for adoption, visit sdhumane.org/adopt.

"A dog may only be a part of your life, but to them, you are their whole world."

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Visit our military museums

The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park. The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center is a museum located in historic Balboa Park of San Diego, California. Founded in 1989, it is dedicated to create, maintain, and operate an institution to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. <http://www.veteranmuseum.org/>
Active duty military, Museum Member, Children under 12: Free
Veterans/Seniors: \$4 • Adults: \$5 • Student ID: \$2
2115 Park Blvd, San Diego (Balboa Park) • (619) 239-2300
Hours: Call for current hours (619) 239-2300

MCRD Command Museum & Historical Society. Museum focusing on Marine Corps history from the 19th century to today is also a research library. <https://www.mcrdmuseum.org/>
Free admission • The Pass and ID Center may issue day passes to visitors who wish to visit the museum and do not possess military ID-call (619) 524-4200 for information on base access.
1600 Hochmuth Ave, San Diego, 92140 • (619) 524-4426.
Hours: Mon 8am-3pm, Tue-Fri 8-4; Family day 8-5:45; Sat 10:30-5, • Closed Sunday

USS Midway Museum. The USS Midway Museum is a maritime museum located in downtown San Diego at Navy Pier. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier Midway. The ship houses an extensive collection of aircraft, many of which were built in So Cal.
FREE for children 3 & under and Active Duty military including reservists (w/valid ID). Adult \$39 (ages 13+). Youth \$26 (ages 4-12). Veterans (w/ID) \$26*Must show ID at entrance. Open daily 10-5, last admission 4pm. <https://www.midway.org/>

The Ranch House Complex at Camp Pendleton. Listed as the Santa Margarita Ranch House Nat'l Historic Site and as a California State Historical Landmark. Docent-led tours are available by appointment; masks required. Please email your request to: MCBCAMPEN_history@usmc.mil or phone (760)725-5758
The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization in support of the base's History and Museum's programs. Go to: www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/ for information. Hours: Open Mondays 10am-2pm

THANKS FOR READING THE DISPATCH!



by Jan Wagner

Pacific Airshow Huntington Beach

those exhibits without having to miss much of the air part of the show.

To best enjoy the Pacific Airshow Huntington Beach, really necessitated attendance over multiple days. I drove up from San Diego to Huntington Beach on Saturday. From shortly after I found a place to park and went into the Pacific Airshow around 10AM, to the end of the final, feature performance of the day — the USAF Thunderbirds, the action in the air was virtually non-stop. So, as much as I would have liked to explore the exhibits, learn from the presentations on the NXTGN Stem Lab Stage, and attend some of the performers' meet-and-greets, once I'd staked out my place on the beach from where I intended to photograph what was happening in the air, I basically did not budge all day. While returning on Sunday was an available option, the oppressive heat on Saturday, with more of the same forecast for Sunday, precluded my return. The heat had taken its toll and I did not return the next day.

The good news is that I took plenty of photos, many of which were quite different from what I'd shot at the MCAS Miramar Air Show.

Every day's schedule of performers was not released until shortly before that day. This was Saturday's schedule. Look at the times and you'll understand why there was no time to leave and see anything else:

10:16 AM: Opening Ceremony and anthems; 10:20 AM: United States Air Force — Wings of Blue Flag Jump; 10:31

AM: NASA Flyover — F-15 and F/A-18; 10:35 AM: USMC — MV-22 Osprey Demo; 10:48 AM: NASA Freedom — 250 F-5 x 5; 11:01 AM: Dawn Patrol Airshows — Formation Team; 11:12 AM: Luke Czeplia, Mike Daniel and Issa Kafilon — Red Bull; 11:23 AM: Michael Goulian — Extra 330SC; 11:36 AM: B-25 and TBM Avenger — Lyon Air Museum and Greg Colyer; 11:45 AM: United States Navy F/A-18 — Rhino Demo; 12:02

PM: Bob Carlton — Foxjet Sailplane; 12:11 PM: Royal Air Force Falcons — Parachute Display Team; 12:21 PM: Royal Air Force — C-17; 12:29 PM: Royal Canadian Air Force — Snowbirds; 1:21 PM: MIG-29 — Jared Isaacman; 1:30 PM: Red Bull Air Force — Aaron, Issa, Luke and jumpers; 1:51 PM: United States Navy — F-35C Demo; 2:13 PM: Torrey Ward — Subsonex Microjet; 2:24 PM: Emma McDonald (AU) — Edge 540; 2:35 PM: United States Air Force — F-22 Demo (with multiple releases of military chaff); 2:51 PM: USAF Heritage Flight — P-38; 3:02 PM: Greg Colyer T-33 and Jason Somes MIG-17; 3:15 PM: Jeff Boerboon — Extra 330SC; 3:32 PM: United States Air Force — Thunderbirds!

Visit the AutoMatters.net website to see photos of most of these Saturday performances.

For more information about the Pacific Airshow Huntington Beach, visit: <https://pacificairshowusa.com>.

To explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, with the most photos and the latest text, visit "AutoMatters & More" at <https://automatters.net>. Search by title or topic in the Search Bar in the middle of the Home Page or click on the blue 'years' boxes and browse.

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Free admission to 26th Annual San Diego Fall Home/Garden Show Oct 17-18

The 36th Annual San Diego Fall Home/Garden Show returns to the historic Del Mar Fairgrounds! This two-day event brings together hundreds of exhibitors, live demonstrations, plant sales, exclusive show specials, and face-to-face consultations with San Diego's top home and garden experts all off this under one roof! The first 1,000 attendees daily receive a free Tote Bag, a \$25 value!

As Southern California's largest Home Garden Show, this event offers homeowners the ultimate one-stop destination for everything related to improving, remodeling, or refreshing their homes and outdoor spaces. From energy-efficient lighting and solar to BBQs, garden lighting, appliances, ADUs, baths, and sunrooms.

SHOP DEALS ON:

Kitchen & bath remodeling
Home décor
Outdoor living & landscaping
Energy-efficient upgrades
And so much more!

Unlike other expos, this Show delivers real content and real knowledge—direct from expert representatives of professional home-improvement and maintenance organizations, as well as from the exhibitors themselves. Skip the driving around town for advice and estimates; here you can compare, shop, and learn in one convenient location. Come for a

few hours or stay all day or both days, There is no better way to start enhancing your home's value and functionality.

Visitors can also enjoy:

The Garden Marketplace: Shop fresh plants from local growers, societies, and specialty vendors, plus free advice from Master Gardeners.

Exclusive Show Bargains: Save with special pricing and one-time-only offers on everything from

windows and doors to landscaping services.

Entertainment: Live music and a bar to make the experience even more enjoyable.

The show will be held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in Del Mar, California on Saturday, October 17, from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, October 18, 10 am to 4 pm

FREE Admission for both days!

See www.fallhomegardenshow.com for details, and updates.



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While the duties of a volunteer may vary, the goal is always the same – to improve the quality of life of service members, boost their morale, and serve as the link between service members and the American people.

Ready to apply to be a USO volunteer?

Visit <https://volunteers.uso.org>

Neil Ash Airport Center

Camp Pendleton USO Center

San Diego MEPS Center

Special Events



County Fall & Halloween Happenings

by Yvette Urrea Moe, County of San Diego Communications Office

Halloween is almost here, and County Parks and County Libraries have many fun fall events for families. You can enjoy haunted trails, fall festivals, movie marathons and Día de los Muertos celebrations throughout the county.

Halloween Festival

The season begins Oct. 9 in Lakeside with a free Halloween Festival at the Lakeside Community Center. A "Hawktober" presentation featuring hawks, owls and falcons starts at 4 p.m., followed by games, prizes, and crafts from 5 to 7 p.m.

Date: Friday, Oct. 9
Time: 4 to 7 p.m.
Location: Lakeside Community Center, 9841 Vine St. in Lakeside

Ghost Hunting 101

Pacific Paranormal Investigations will give a "Ghost Hunting 101" presentation at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 13 at the County Library in Del Mar. The talk focuses on technology, critical thinking, and common misconceptions. Some parts may not be suitable for very young children.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 13
Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Del Mar Library, 130 Camino Del Mar

Hellhole Halloween

Hellhole Canyon Preserve will hold its annual Halloween festival starting at 4 p.m. on Oct. 17. The first 100 children will receive a free pumpkin. The event will include a Birds of Prey show, a costume contest and a screening of "How to Train Your Dragon" live action movie.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 17
Time: 4 to 7 p.m.
Location: Hellhole Canyon Preserve, 19324 Santee Lane in Valley Center

Haunted Trails

Dos Picos County Park will host a Haunted Trails walk on Oct. 17. Activities begin at 4 p.m., and "ghosts" will haunt the trail from 7 to 9 p.m. Parking is \$5.
Date: Saturday, Oct. 17
Time: 4 to 9 p.m.
Location: 17953 Dos Picos Park Road in Ramona

Día de los Muertos Celebration

Also on Oct. 17, Rancho Guajome will host a Día de los Muertos celebration. Tickets are \$6 for ages 13 and up and \$3 for ages 4 to 12. The event will include food, community altars, entertainment and free arts and crafts.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 17
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Rancho Guajome Adobe at 2210 N. Santa Fe Ave. in Vista

Fall Festival

San Dieguito County Park will hold a fall festival on Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Del Mar. The event will include crafts, activities, a costume parade, a costume contest and a Hawktober presentation. Parking is \$5.

Date: Sunday, Oct. 18
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: San Dieguito County Park at 1628 Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Del Mar

Pumpkin Patch at Waterfront Park

Waterfront Park will host a pumpkin patch party at 11 a.m. at the bayfront. Kids can pick a pumpkin, decorate it, and enjoy music, crafts, inflatables, photo

opportunities and food trucks. Parking is limited.

Date: Sunday, Oct. 18
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: 1600 Pacific Coast Highway in San Diego

Halloween Movies in the Park

"Practical Magic" will also be featured at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 23 as part of Summer Movies in the Park. Join Women in the Wild, an outdoor skills program, for a romantic fantasy about two sisters from a family of witches who learn about sisterhood, courage and the power of accepting who they are.

Date: Friday, Oct. 23
Time: 5:30 p.m. (Movie starts 15 minutes after sunset)
Location: Heritage County Park, 2454 Heritage Park Row in Old Town San Diego

In addition the fun continues throughout the month with "The Goonies" Oct. 17 at Lake Morena County Park, "Hocus Pocus" Oct. 24 at Otay Lakes County Park, "Coco" Oct. 24 at Felicita County Park, and "Wicked" at Agua Caliente County Park. Find more details about those events at Summer Movies in the Park.

Spring Valley Fall Festival

Spring Valley's family-friendly festival will be held on Oct. 23 at 4 p.m. Children may pick a pumpkin, and the event will include music, games and arts and crafts.

Date: Friday, Oct. 23
Time: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location: Spring Valley Community Center, 8735 Jamacha Blvd.



Catrina at Rancho Guajome Fallbrook Halloween Festival

The Fallbrook Halloween Festival will take place from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Fallbrook Community Center. The event includes carnival games, giveaways, resource booths and a costume contest. A Sensory-Friendly Time from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and a Quiet Room throughout the event will support children of all abilities.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 24
Time: 3:30 to 6 p.m.
Location: Fallbrook Community Center at 341 Heald Lane in Fallbrook

Poway Halloween Carnival

The Poway Library will hold its annual Halloween Carnival on Oct. 24 starting at 10:30 a.m. Children 10 and younger can enjoy carnival games, a haunted hallway and are encouraged to wear costumes.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 24
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: County Library in Poway at 13137 Poway Road

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

El Cajon Library is holding a Pumpkin Decorating Contest in the following categories: Best Traditional, Most Adorable, Most Creative and Scariest pumpkin. One entry per person, it must be fully decorated when dropped off (no lit flame or fire). Drop off is Oct. 24-25, voting begins Oct. 26 and winners will be announced

Friday, Oct. 30. Carvers can win a gift card. Need not be present to win.

Date: Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 24-25 to enter
Time: Library hours
Location: County Library in El Cajon, 201 E. Douglas

Halloween Festival

Lake Morena County Park is celebrating with a Halloween Festival starting at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 24. Activities include pumpkin carving, crafts, bounce house, critter education and a 6 p.m. ranger-led night hike. Parking is \$5.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 24
Time: 3:30 to 6 p.m.
Location: Lake Morena County Park at 2550 Lake Morena Drive in Campo

Pumpkin Carving Party

A pumpkin carving party is being held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Santa Ysabel Nature Center. Pumpkins and material will be available. There are limited spots so RSVP by Oct. 23 with the number of guests to alexandra.barone@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Date: Sunday, Oct. 25
Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Santa Ysabel Nature Center, 22135 CA-79

Del Mar Library Día de los Muertos Ofrenda

Bring a copy of a photo of a departed loved one to be part of the County Library in Del Mar's Día de los Muertos ofrenda from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 27-Tuesday, Nov. 3
Time: Library Hours
Location: Del Mar Library, 1309 Camino Del Mar

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Kids and teens are invited to a mini pumpkin decorating contest starting at 2:30 p.m. at the County Library in Julian. One entry per person. Pumpkins must be decorated at the library. Your pumpkin may win a prize.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 28
Time: 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Julian Library, 1850 Highway 78

Family Halloween Movie Marathon

On Oct. 31, the Cardiff-by-the-Sea Library will host a Family Halloween Movie Marathon from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Family-friendly movies, popcorn and juice boxes will be available all day.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 31
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Cardiff-by-the-Sea Library at 2081 Newcastle Avenue

Hawktober

The final Hawktober presentation for the month will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 31 at El Monte County Park, 15805 El Monte Road in Lakeside. Pumpkin painting will also be offered.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 31
Time: 2 to 3 p.m.
Location: El Monte County Park at 15805 El Monte Road in Lakeside

The County of San Diego is proud to offer safe, family-friendly and fun events year-round, helping families explore parks, enjoy activities, and connect with their communities.



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